



The Lincoln Kinsman

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NANCY LINCOLN BRUMFIELD

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FAMILY INTO WHICH LINCOLN'S
AUNT NANCY MARRIED

When the offspring of any family consists entirely of girls, with no boys to eventually perpetuate the surname, it is likely that interest in genealogy in that particular group, gradually fades out. Abraham Lincoln's aunt, Nancy Lincoln Brumfield, had four children, but all of them were girls. Although these children were first cousins of the President, but little is known about their descendants.

Interest in the Brumfield family has been accentuated somewhat by the fact that Bersheba Lincoln, grandmother of Abraham Lincoln, is said to have made her home with the Brumfields and passed her last days with her daughter, Nancy, youngest sister of Thomas Lincoln, the President's father. Further attention has been called to the Brumfield story because the old burial ground in which the President's grandmother is supposed to be buried beside her daughter, sometime ago was set apart

as Kentucky State Park, number seventeen. Just now the extension of the boundaries of Camp Knox will apparently absorb the old Mill Creek Church and the burial lot, so it is problematical just what will become of this historic spot.

The Virginia Brumfields

The first Virginia colony in which we find the Brumfields, was located in what was originally Lunenburg County. On the records of that county we find these names that are very familiar to Lincoln students who have done research work on the maternal ancestry of Abraham Lincoln: Berry, Brumfield, Caldwell, Mitchell, Prewitt, Shipley and Thompson. These names appear previous to 1765, before Charlotte County was cut out of Lunenburg, but after that date the names appear in Charlotte County, which embraced the Little Roanoke community, where Brumfield and most of his neighbors lived.

As early as September 5, 1749, William Brumfield entered 400 acres of land on "the upper side of Little Roanoke River" in Virginia. This land, then in Lunenburg County, as already indicated, was later to fall within the boundary of Charlotte County. In the year 1782, a William Brumfield was living in Charlotte County, and the census taken that year shows seven persons in his family. There was also a William Brumfield who died by the year 1797 and his will recorded in Charlotte County, names a son, John, and a daughter, Mary Hall, "both supposed to be in Kentucky." Judith Traman is also mentioned in the will. It was a William Brumfield, whom we first find directly associated with the Berry family, about the time the Kentucky migrations by the Brumfield and Berry families were being planned. The following important land entry at Richmond, Virginia, is of great importance in showing the earliest contact of the two families and the actual location of the earliest land entry in the Kentucky County, which at that time was a part of Virginia.

"Benj. Harrison Esq. Gov. of Commonwealth of Va. sum of 80 pounds pd by Richard Berry unto the treasury of this Comm. there is granted etc. to Richard Berry assigne of Wm. Broomfield (Brumfield) a certain tract 200 a. surveyed May 5, 1781 on a Treas. warrant 5997 & issued this Aug. 10th, 1780, lying and being in the county of Lincoln on the S. fork of the Doctor's Fork."

On September 6, 1780 Robert Brumfield of Charlotte County, sold to Robert Mitchell of Bedford, a 200 acre tract of land, Robert's name

does not thereafter appear on the records of Charlotte, and he is not named in the census of 1782, but he is undoubtedly the same Robert associated with Richard Berry, the Shipleys, the Prewitts and the Mitchells in the Kentucky land purchases.

On March 16, 1780 "Richard Berry of the County of Charlotte" sold to Captain Richard Gaines a tract of land adjacent to Logan's land. This was probably Berry's last land transaction in Virginia.

The Kentucky Pioneers

There can be little question but what the Brumfields came into the Kentucky country about 1780 with Richard Berry and Roanoke River relatives. They settled in what was then Lincoln County, but later became Mercer and Washington. On May 1, 1781 Richard Berry entered 200 acres of land on Doctor's Fork, adjacent to Stewart's line. One week later on May 7, 1781 William Brumfield entered 200 acres joining Stewart's. On June 22, Brumfield entered another tract on Doctor's Fork and on November 20, Robert Brumfield entered a tract on Chaplin's Fork in the same community. The following year on December 23, 1782, James Brumfield entered 200 acres on Chaplin's Fork and the same day Robert Brumfield entered 200 acres in the same community. There are two interesting notations in the Lincoln County survey book for February 5, 1783; Job Brumfield entered a tract on Doctor's Fork and Richard Berry a 400 acre tract adjoining the above mentioned Brumfield tract.

By the year 1783 there were Brumfield men by the names of Robert,

William, James and Job, who had entered land in the community not far from where the Widow Lincoln and her family took up their residence in 1786, and it would seem reasonable to assume that at least one of these men was the father of the William Brumfield, who married a daughter of the Widow Lincoln.

Among these four men we might conclude that the Robert Brumfield, whom we discovered in Charlotte County, Virginia, was the oldest, and this fact is confirmed by the finding of his will and the names of his three sons, which account for the other three of the four Brumfield names found on early records.

The will of Robert Brumfield was signed on February 7, 1790 and he bequeathed to his daughter, Tabitha "the tract where I now live", he also mentioned Mary McCastin. He names his sons: William, James and Job, and his daughters: Eda Prewitt, Susan Richardson, Mary Prewitt, Elizabeth Mitchell, and Sarah Brumfield. In the inventory of the estate five negroes were listed.

It is of passing interest to note that it was on Doctor's Fork where Richard Berry and Robert Brumfield first settled. Here Nancy Hanks Lincoln's widowed mother, Lucy Shipley Hanks, was living, when she married Henry Sparrow. Richard Berry, whose wife was Rachel Shipley Berry, sister of Lucy, was the uncle of Nancy and with him she made her home after the second marriage of her mother, Lucy. George Shipley, a brother of Rachel and Lucy, was a witness in a suit brought by James Brumfield in 1791.

There was also a pioneer Brumfield by the name of Richard, who settled

near Robert Brumfield, and they may have been brothers. He left a wife, Sarah, and the following children are named in a circuit court order book, reporting the settlement of his estate: James B., Richard B., Mrs. John Bilbo, Nancy Ons—, William, Jr., Sussane, Jas., Jr., and Sally Pitman.

The Sons of Robert Brumfield

We know very little about two of the three sons of Robert Brumfield, but fortunately we have considerable information about the one through whom the Brumfield, who married Abraham Lincoln's Aunt Nancy, traces his lineage.

All that is available about the oldest son, William, is found in his land transactions, when he sells his two hundred acre tract of land which he owned on Doctor's Fork. A land patent was issued in Richmond, Virginia, on August 14, 1786 for a tract of land on Doctor's Fork in the County of Mercer, adjacent to William Brumfield's 200 acre survey. A deed signed in Mercer County by William and Sarah Brumfield on January 22, 1794 conveys a tract of land on Doctor's Fork to Jacob Crow. The estate of a Sarah Brumfield, presumably the widow of William, was appraised by J. B. Brumfield and John Bilbo in 1831.

Job Brumfield, the second son, located a tract of land containing 300 acres in Mercer County, near Doctor's Fork, as early as February 10, 1783, and Richard Berry, as we have observed, entered a tract of land containing 400 acres adjacent to it. Job Brumfield and Elizabeth, his wife, sold the land on Doctor's Fork on October 25, 1796. That Job was the son of Robert Brumfield and that he

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married Elizabeth Salyerman on January 1, 1788 is about all we know about him, when his will was signed on March 18, 1798, he named his wife, Elizabeth and named as his executor, "My well beloved friend, William Brumfield." The widow of Jacob later married a man named Mahan.

It is James Brumfield, the second son of Robert Brumfield, who is of supreme importance in this study, because he became the father of William Brumfield, who married Nancy Lincoln, sister of the President's

father. James Brumfield married Johanna Berry, oldest daughter of the pioneer Richard Berry, in Virginia, and migrated with his father and father-in-law and the rest of the colony to Kentucky. By 1782 he had entered his first land in the Doctor's Fork community.

James Brumfield and Johanna, his wife, sold the tract of land in Mercer County, in 1791, for the sum of 50 pounds to Jacob Minor. Both James and his wife signed their names to the deed for the land which is noted as next to Harrison's line. In that same year James paid Robert Andrews ten pounds and sixteen shillings for three months and eighteen days service "in going down to the Illeonese country (or New Spain) after said Briscoe's negroes." James Brumfield's payment of this sum on behalf of Briscoe, caused some litigation in which case David Prewitt and George Shipley were two of the witnesses.

The following year in 1792 James Brumfield entered on the commissions tax list of Washington County, 9 horses and 19 cattle. It is also shown that at this time there was one boy between 16 and 21 years of age in his family. This boy was evidently his oldest son, Robert, whose name appears on the tax list for the first time in 1796. On February 7, 1793 James Brumfield was appointed as a constable for Washington County and a few weeks later his name appears along with Mordecai Lincoln's on an order to view a road improvement.

It was about the time that Richard Berry's oldest son John, died, in 1795, that the old pioneer began to dispose of some of his land to his

children, and on August 1, 1795 Richard Berry and Rachel, his wife, deeded to James Brumfield, his son-in-law "200 acres on Beech Fork where Brumfield now lives." This land was not more than half a mile from where the Widow Lincoln was living with her children.

James Brumfield died sometime before January, 1796 when the will was probated. In the will he mentioned his wife, Johanna; sons, Robert, Richard, William, James, Samuel, David and John, also one daughter Rachel. There may have been other daughters, but this was the only one named. James named his brother-in-law, Richard Berry, Jr. and his own son Richard, along with John Caldwell as the executors of his estate.

To his wife, Johanna, James left a negro girl named Rachel and ordered a horse to be sold and the money received to purchase a negro for the family. He also ordered "as much of my estate to be sold to purchase a negro girl for my daughter Rachel." He left to his sons "Robert and William 500 acres of land in Jefferson County." Johanna Brumfield evidently supervised the business of the plantation, because she signed a note in which she promised to deliver to James Eavens "2200 weight of good merchantable corn fed pork on or before December 25, 1796." Later on Eavens gave her a receipt dated October 4, 1797 for a mare Johanna had purchased.

William Brumfield, oldest brother of James Brumfield, upon the latter's death, was appointed guardian "to Rachel Brumfield and John Brumfield, infant orphans of James Brumfield, deceased." This order was is-

sued on December 1, 1801.

The heirs of James Brumfield sold in 1805 a piece of land on Chaplin's Fork, divided into four tracts. Robert, a son of James, bought one, James Mitchell, a brother-in-law, bought another, and Josiah Campbell and Cornelius Tully bought the other two. By the time of this land transaction, William, the third son of James, had migrated to Hardin County. It is this one of James' sons who married into the Lincoln family.

William and Nancy Lincoln Brumfield

The Widow Lincoln came very near having a double wedding in her family in February, 1801, as her youngest daughter, Nancy, and son, Josiah, married within nine days of each other. On February 3, 1801 the Widow Lincoln signed the following certificate which was presented to the county clerk, when the prospective groom, William Brumfield, visited the office to give bond with Mordecai Lincoln, Nancy Lincoln's brother, serving as his security. The date of the certificate and bond which were issued, has usually been noted as the wedding date, but a record in a family Bible makes it nine days later.

"Sir, you will please to give a license for William Brumfield to marry Ann Lincoln, my daughter, from under my hand this 3rd day of February, 1801, Bersheba Lincoln.

"Witnesses

"Mordecai Lincoln

"Peter Skulkee"

The Widow Lincoln lived not far away from the Pioneer Richard Berry with whose family there may have been some connection before the Ken-

tucky days, but the old pioneer Berry died before he saw the children of the Widow marry into the Berry clan. William Brumfield, Nancy Lincoln's husband, was a grandson of Richard Berry, whose oldest daughter Johanna, had married James Brumfield, William's father.

Josiah Lincoln married Katie Barlow. She was a sister of Eliza Barlow, who had married Robert Brumfield, brother of Nancy Lincoln's husband, William, and the grandson of Richard Berry. The third child of the Widow Lincoln to marry into the Berry clan was Thomas, father of the President, who took as his wife, Nancy Hanks, the niece of Richard Berry. It was the oldest son of Richard Berry, Richard, Jr., who signed the Lincoln-Hanks marriage bond as the guardian of Nancy Hanks.

What appears to be the first of any considerable migration westward of the Lincolns from the Washington County community, took place shortly after the Widow Lincoln's children married in 1801. While Josiah and Mordecai Lincoln did not join in it, both Mary Lincoln and her husband, Ralph Crume, Nancy Lincoln and her husband, William Brumfield, William's brother, James and his family and perhaps most important of all, Thomas Lincoln and his widowed mother, Bersheba, removed from Washington County.

The Brumfields and the Lincolns settled on Mill Creek in Hardin County and the Crumes pushed on a little further west to Breckenridge County. The Washington County records give evidence that they were gone in 1802 as the word "gone" is placed after the name of Thomas Lincoln and the statement "to Hardin"

follows Richard Brumfield's name.

We will have little interest in following the fortunes of James Brumfield's family, although he was always closely associated with his brother, William. In his will which was signed on July 13, 1834 he named his wife, Mary or "Polly" and his children James, Johanna Patterson, Samuel Brumfield and William Brumfield. He named his daughter Johanna for his mother and the three sons for his three brothers.

William Brumfield's name is found quite frequently in the records of Hardin County and he was rather a successful farmer, but never listed for taxation more than one slave and four or five horses. His farm on Mill Creek was about one mile from the old Mill Creek Church, five miles from the land owned by Thomas Lincoln, and twelve miles north of Elizabethtown. There were two hundred acres in his tract of land and he leased two fields near his home from Samuel Haycraft.

As we have already noted William and Nancy Lincoln Brumfield had no sons, but there were four daughters born to them: Elizabeth, Lucretia, Mary and Susan. We have named them in the order of their marriage, as far as their marriage dates are known. Elizabeth married William Nall on October 13, 1825; Lucretia married John Alston on February 12, 1835; Mary married Ralph L. Crume on July 1, 1837; Susan is said to have married Abner Harrison, but the date is not known.

The number of people in William Brumfield's family is clearly specified in the United States Census returns for 1820. Brumfield is listed as under 45 years of age, there were

two girls under 10, two girls between 10 and 16 and one woman under 45. There is no notation on the census of any woman in the family over 45 which would imply that Bersheba Lincoln, who is supposed to have been living with her daughter, was already dead by this time. It is also true that there was no elderly woman listed in 1810, when William entered but his wife and two daughters on the census report.

It is very difficult to harmonize these records with the story told about the age of "Granny" Lincoln, who is said to have lived to be 110 years old and did not pass away until 1836. If she was born in 1726 and her husband, the pioneer Abraham Lincoln was born in 1744, she would be 18 years his senior. Furthermore she would have been fifty-four years old when her youngest daughter, Nancy was born.

Aged Bersheba Lincoln's youngest daughter, died in 1845 and an old tombstone in the Mill Creek burial ground, placed over the grave of Abraham Lincoln's Aunt Nancy, carries this inscription: "Nancy Brumfield/wife of/William Brumfield/Departed this/Life October/9, 1845 at 7 o'clock eve./aged 63-6-14."

William Brumfield survived his wife, and his will was signed on July 8, 1857. He had made another will in 1854 which he declared null and void, and in this last will and testament made his daughter Lucretia Alston his beneficiary, leaving her his 160 acre farm with this provision: "that the said Lucretia Alston take care of me and support me in a decent and respectable manner." The will was probated on September 2, 1858.

The Four Brumfield Daughters

Brief reference to the four daughters of William and Nancy Brumfield might be of interest. We have observed that Lucretia and her husband resided at the old homestead on Mill Creek. Ralph Lincoln Crume, the husband of Mary, was her first cousin. He was the son of Ralph and Mary Lincoln Crume, who lived in Breckenridge County. It appears as if Ralph Lincoln Crume and his wife, Mary Brumfield Crume, lived on Mill Creek as the following writing will confirm.

"Articles of agreement entered into between Samuel Haycraft of one part and Ralph L. Crume of the other part, both of Hardin County Kentucky. The said Samuel Haycraft has this day leased and rented to the said Ralph L. Crume from the first day of February last to the 10th day of March, 1846, two fields or lots of enclosed ground on the tract of 400 acres on Mill Creek including Haynes Lick owned by the said Haycraft and wife, being the same fields on which William Brumfield lately held a lease which expired on the first of February last."

Ralph's wife is buried in the old Milk Creek cemetery and this inscription is found on her tombstone: "Mary Crume/Departed this/Life June 15, 1851/aged 58 yrs 5/months and 11 days."

Some traditions extant, claim that Susan, another daughter, never married, but there is a large family of Harrisons who claim to be her descendants and affirm that she married Abner Harrison. One of her daughters, Elizabeth Francis Harrison, married John J. French and they had several children.

Several years ago the editor of the *Kinsman* discovered in Beaumont, Texas, an old family Bible which contained the records of the family of Elizabeth Brumfield Nall, the fourth daughter of William and Mary Brumfield.

On the pages of the old Bible set aside for the recording of births was the citation, "William Brumfield was born June 15, 1778. Nancy Linkhorn was born March 25, 1780. They were married February 12, 1801." Of course, it is interesting to note the way Lincoln is spelled in this old Bible, apparently spelled the way it was pronounced. The marriage date is also different from that which usually appears, indicating that it was several days after the marriage bond was issued, that the wedding actually took place.

The other family records on these pages are given over to the history of the Nall family into which one of the daughters of William and Nancy Lincoln Brumfield married. "William P. Nall was born September 23, 1798. Elizabeth Brumfield was born December 3, 1804. William and Elizabeth were married October 13, 1825." The birth dates of William P. Nall's parents are also recorded in the Bible as follows: "John Nall, Sr. was born July 22, 1772, Rebekah Slack was born June 3, 1778. They were married October 6, 1797."

The children of William and Elizabeth Brumfield Nall and the dates of their birth are: "Caroline, Oct. 2, 1826; Mary, Oct. 20, 1828; James L., May 10, 1830; William A., Feb. 5, 1832; Louisa, May 5, 1833; Minerva, Aug. 27, 1834; John G., Feb. 9, 1836; Horace F., May 17, 1837, Lloyd, Feb. 3, 1839; Sarah F., June

9, 1843; Nan. M., April 7, 1847."

Genealogical Table

The very fragmentary genealogical table which follows may serve as the background for some more ambitious undertaking which will give the family history of the four daughters of Nancy Lincoln Brumfield up to date, and also push back far enough into colonial history to discover the first American progenitor of William Brumfield, her husband.

a. Robert, ?-1790.

- aa. William, m. Sarah ?
- ab. James, m. Johanna Berry
- ac. Job, m. Elizabeth Salyerman
- ad. Eda, m. a Prewitt
- ae. Susan, m. a Richardson
- af. Mary, m. a Prewitt
- ag. Elizabeth, m. James Mitchell
- ah. Sarah, m. ?
- ai. Tabitha, m. ?

- aba. Robert, m. Elizabeth Barlow
- abb. Richard, m. Polly Pyburn
- abc. William, m. Ann Lincoln
- abd. James, m. ?
- abe. Samuel, m. Polly Pitman
- abf. David, m. ?
- abg. John, m. ?
- abh. Rachel, m. ?

- abba. James, m. Abigail Daugherty
- abbb. Johanna, m. William Patterson
- abbc. Samuel, m. ?
- abbd. William, m. Martha Jane Mobley

- abca. Mary, m. Ralph L. Crume
- abcb. Elizabeth, m. William E. Nall
- abcc. Lucretia, m. John Alston
- abcd. Susan, m. Abner Harrison